embodiment, the format of the output is a Universal Modeling Language (UML) document, which can be displayed readily through an Internet browser. The UML-generated display can display the system architecture containing hyperlinks between components within the business, application, and technology layers.

Amendments to the specification are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (page i-ii).
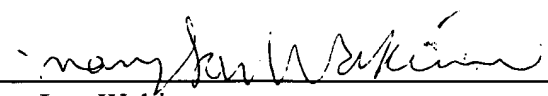
REMARKS

The Related Applications paragraph is amended to reflect the issuance of U.S. Patent Application 09/127,191. Also, the amendments replace Universal Markup Language with Universal Modeling Language, because UML is an acronym for Universal Modeling Language, not Universal Markup Language. These amendments neither add new matter to the specification nor change the scope of the claims as originally filed. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated:

MARKED UP VERSION OF AMENDMENTS

Specification Amendments Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(iii)

Replace the paragraph at page 1, lines 4 through 9 with the below paragraph marked up by way of bracketing and underlining to show the changes relative to the previous version of the paragraph.

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/228,702, filed on August 29, 2000 and claims priority to Application No. 09/606,869, filed June 29, 2000, which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/142,313, filed on July 2, 1999. This application further claims priority to Application No. 09/127,191, filed July 31, 1998 (now [allowed] U.S. Patent 6,311,144, issued October 30, 2001), which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/085,350, filed on May 13, 1998.

Replace the paragraph at page 6, lines 11 through 16 with the below paragraph marked up by way of bracketing and underlining to show the changes relative to the previous version of the paragraph.

FIG. 3 is a diagram illustrating the graphical layout of a business process design according to one embodiment. In this example, the business process design 300 depicts the business processes and interactions for processing payments within a financial institution. The system architect creates the business process design by adding icons 310 and links 320 to the layout. Each icon 310 identifies a business process, while the links 320 between business process icons 310 represent the flow of processing. According to one embodiment, the graphical layout interface is implemented with a graphical scripting language, such as Universal [Markup] Modeling Language (UML).

Replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 17 through 26 with the below paragraph marked up by way of bracketing and underlining to show the changes relative to the previous version of the paragraph.

If, at 160, the modeled business performance metrics satisfy the business requirements of each business process, the proposed system architecture is forwarded to the output module 60 at 170 to output a detailed description of the specifications of the model based system architecture. The output module 60 formats the system architecture model into a detailed set of "blueprints" describing the construction and implementation of the system architecture. According to one embodiment, the format of the output is a Universal [Markup] Modeling Language (UML) document, which can be displayed readily through an Internet browser. The UML-generated display can display the system architecture containing hyperlinks between components within the business, application, and technology layers.